

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 04592 271144Z

43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 AID-05 IO-10 A-01

OPR-02 SY-05 IGA-01 /087 W

----- 080526

O R 271056Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4600

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL UDORN

CINCPAC

DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI UDORN

USSAG/7TH AF NKP

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 4592

BANGKOK ALSO FOR RAMSEY, USAID/LAOS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, PINT, LA, US

SUBJ: THE END OF THE AFFAIR

1. THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM OF NA HAI DIAO HAVE BEEN
HANDED OVER TO THE PGNU.

2. AT 4 P.M., JUNE 27, CHARGE AND POL COUNSELOR MET
MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND PLAN SOTH PHETRASY. CHARGE
FIRST MENTIONED MR. RAMSEY'S EFFORTS TO REACH THE
MINISTER BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON.
UNABLE TO REACH HIM, MR. RAMSEY SENT A LETTER WHICH
CHARGE GAVE HIM. CHARGE THEN GAVE HIM OTHER LETTER
FROM RAMSEY FOR HIS CHEF DE CABINET KHAMSIENG TOGETHER
WITH ALL ACTIVITY PLANS, AND EXPLAINED THAT LETTER
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PAGE 02 VIENTI 04592 271144Z

STATED WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO SEND CHECK FOR BALANCE

IN ACTIVITIES BUDGET TO ENTITY OR PERSON DESIGNATED BY PGNU. FINALLY, CHARGE POINTED TO BOX FULL OF KEYS WHICH WE HAD BROUGHT AND SAID THESE WERE ALL THE KEYS TO THE USAID COMPOUND AND THEY WERE THEIRS. AS DEFINED BY OUR NOTE, WE WERE ABANDONING CONTROL OF ALL USAID PROPERTIES, MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT TO PGNU.

3. SOTH WAS GLUM THROUGHOUT AND SPOKE IN ALMOST INAUDIBLE TONES. HE SAID HE HAD DONE HIS BEST DURING WHOLE PERIOD TO MAINTAIN FRIENDLY CLIMATE. HE REGRETTED NEGOTIATIONS HAD NOT BEEN SATISFACTORILY CONCLUDED. HE HAD HOPED TURNOVER COULD HAVE BEEN MARKED BY CEREMONY. HOWEVER, HE HAD RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL FROM PRIMIN SOUVANNA AT 1140 THAT MORNING WHO HAD DIRECTED HIM TO ACCEPT KEYS. HE WAS THEREFORE DOING SO, AND THANKED US POLITELY BUT NOT EFFUSIVELY. FINALLY WE GAVE SOTH LIST OF ITEMS WHICH WERE NOT RELATED TO USAID (SUCH AS COMMISSARY, POVS, DAO EQUIPMENT, ETC.) WE WOULD LIKE TO GET OUT OF VARIOUS COMPOUNDS. HE PROMISED TO STUDY MATTER AND GIVE US AN ANSWER.

4. COMMENT: IN THE LAST TWO DAYS, LUCK AT LONG LAST HAD BEEN WITH US. THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS COULD NOT HAVE DEVELOPED BETTER HAD WE BEEN ABLE TO PLAN IT THAT WAY. WE DELIVERED OUR NOTE FIRST. RAMSEY STAYED ON TO THE LAST MOMENT AFTER TRYING TO REACH SOTH, AND LEFT ONLY AFTER MFA NOTE MADE CLEAR NO COMPROMISE WAS POSSIBLE. WE WERE ABLE TO CLEAR UP CERTAIN ISSUES WITH SOUBANH AND THEN RECEIVED PRIME MINISTER'S SUPPORT FOR OUR POSITION WHICH ENABLED US TO COMPLETE OPERATION WITH SOTH WHO WAS MINISTER THEORETICALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ENTIRE NEGOTIATIONS. THE MISSION IS TERMINATED; ALL USAID EMPLOYEES HAVE LEFT; ALL USAID PROPERTIES, MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT HAVE BEEN ABANDONED IN WHAT SEEMS TO US THE CLEANEST POSSIBLE; AND WE HAVE RESERVED OUR RIGHTS.

5. IT WAS CLEAR FROM OUR CONVERSATIONS OF LAST TWO DAYS THAT PATHET LAO HAVE BEEN DISCOMFITED. THEY UNDOUBTEDLY WANTED A CEREMONY PUBLICIZING THE TRANSFER
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PAGE 03 VIENTI 04592 271144Z

OF USAID TO THE PGNU. IT WOULD HAVE REPRESENTED "THE TRIUMPH OF THE LAO PEOPLE OVER THE U.S. IMPERIALISTS." THEY MUST FEEL A BIT LET DOWN. THEY WILL FEEL EVEN MORE LET DOWN WHEN THEY BEGIN WRESTLING WITH THE PROBLEMS OF WHAT TO DO WITH ALL WE HAVE LEFT BEHIND. THIS SENSE OF LOSS WILL BE HEIGHTENED IF SOUVANNA'S INFORMATION OF PHOUMI'S HEART ATTACK IS CORRECT, FOR IN LAST WEEKS PHOUMI HAS BECOME THE DOMINANT POLITICAL

LEADER IN VIENTIANE AND IN HIS ABSENCE NOTHING MOVES.

6. WE ARE RELIEVED BUT THE PROSPECTS AHEAD REMAIN FOREBODING. THERE ARE FOOD SHORTAGES. THE IMPOSITION OF A SOCIALIST ORDER CONTINUES APACE AND WITH IT GROWING FEAR AMONG THE LAO. THE UNCERTAINTIES OF FEOF'S FUTURE HAVE CAUGHT THE ATTENTION OF ALL PARTIES (INCLUDING THE SOVIETS AND CHINESE). THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S DELIBERATIONS CONTINUE AND ARE STILL AWAITED WITH TREPIDATION. CONFRONTED BY ALL THIS UNKNOWN, THIS MISSION WILL BE HUNKERED DOWN TO 38 BY SUNDAY IN TWO HOUSING AREAS AND WILL WAIT WITH EVERY ONE ELSE IN VIENTIANE, BUT WE HAVE SURVIVED THE FIRST STAGE OF THE REVOLUTION.
CHAPMAN

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NNN

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